

October 22, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Report on the Situation with Respect to Repatriation of  
Prisoners of War.

1. At the Senior National Security Council Staff Meeting on September 27, in connection with the discussion of United States courses of action in Korea, the Psychological Strategy Board was asked to "undertake at once to prepare a preliminary report on the position of the United States with respect to repatriation and to exchange of prisoners of war". This problem was first officially posed in a Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum for the Secretary of Defense dated August 8, 1951, Subject: "Policy on Repatriation of Chinese and North Korean Prisoners."

2. In pursuance to this agreement, I had my staff prepare a staff study with recommendations on this subject. In the preparation of this staff study, PSB received the advice of Mr. Raymond Yingling and Mr. Arthur B. Emmons, Department of State; Major J. D. Mitchell, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Colonel Richard Stilwell, Central Intelligence Agency, as well as the following outside Consultants: Mr. Paul M. A. Linebarger and Mr. Charles A. H. Thomson.

3. During the period of preparation of this staff study, the Secretary of State commented upon the Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum to the Secretary of Defense by letter of August 27, 1951, and on September 25, 1951 the Secretary of Defense addressed a memorandum on this subject to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in which he requested the incorporation of additional views into a re-examination of the problem by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The PSB staff study took into consideration the views reflected in those communications.

4. Subsequent to the completion of this staff study, the Joint Chiefs of Staff met (on October 12) to reconsider this subject. On the basis of decisions taken at that meeting the Joint Chiefs of Staff addressed a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense, 15 October 1951, Subject: "Policy on Repatriation of Chinese and North Korean Prisoners", in which the Joint Chiefs of Staff indicated, among other matters, that they now consider that the policy questions on this issue can be resolved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff with the Department of State and Defense without further reference to the National Security Council.

5. In view of the foregoing situation, it appears that the position of the United States with respect to repatriation and to exchange of prisoners of war is now being satisfactorily resolved between the interested Departments, without requirement for further action by the Psychological Strategy Board. Copies of the PSB staff study are being furnished to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Joint Staff, together with a copy of this memorandum for their information.

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Director